

Líofa

Nuachtlitir Líofa Nollaig 2014

Líofa Newsletter Christmas 2014

Focal ón Aire

A chairde,

Tá lúcháir orm a fheiceáil go bhfuil an Ghaeilge ag dul ó neart go neart agus go bhfuil gealltanas Líofa tugtha ag an oiread sin daoine. Tá an-dul chun cinn déanta ag an fheachtas maidir lena sprioc a bhaint amach .i. 10,000 clárú in 2015 agus ba mhaith liom buíochas a thabhairt do gach duine agaibh a chláraigh. Maith sibh! Tá grúpaí Gaeilge ar fud an tuaiscirt ag maíomh go bhfuil níos mó daoine ná riamh ag freastal ar ranganna agus go bhfuil níos mó tosaitheoirí agus foghlaimoirí a bhfuil Gaeilge mheasartha acu ag bogadh go dtí an chéad leibhéal eile. Ceann de na fáthanna is coitianta atá taobh thiar de dhaoine ag stopadh ag foghlaim teanga ná gan am a bheith acu le freastal ar ranganna. D'ainneoin mo sceideal féin déanaim mo dhícheall gach seachtain am a chur ar leataobh le haghaidh fhoghlaim na Gaeilge; tá súil agam go bhfuil tusa ag déanamh amhlaidh fosta. Tógann sé mo chroí daoine ó gach cúlra a fheiceáil ag foghlaim Gaeilge anois agus tá súil agam go leanfaidh an dea-obair atá á déanamh ar an talamh lena chinntiú go dtarlaíonn sé sin ar aghaidh san am atá le teacht. Sa Bhliain Úr tíg linn a bheith ag súil le foilsíú Straitéis na Gaeilge agus le Seachtain na Gaeilge a bheas ag seoladh a cuid imeachtaí sa tuaisceart den chéad uair. Is í Seachtain na Gaeilge an deis is fearr dá bhfuil ann le héagsúlacht na gcainteoirí dúchais a fheiceáil agus léiríonn sí cé chomh huileghabhálach agus atá pobal na Gaeilge. Tá mé ag súil go mór le bheith ag ceiliúradh libh i mí an Mhárta.

“My New Year’s resolution is to ‘lean liom go Líofacht’, I hope you join me!” Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure

**“‘Lean liom go Líofacht’ an dea-rún atá agamsa don Bhliain Úr. Tá súil agam go mbeidh tú liom!” Carál Ní Chuilín CTR
An tAire Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta**

Minister’s Message

A chairde,

I am happy to see that the Irish language is flourishing and record numbers of language learners have taken the Líofa pledge. The campaign is well on its way to achieving its target of 10,000 sign-ups in 2015 and I would like to thank and praise all of you who have registered. Irish language groups around the north are reporting swelling class numbers and a greater amount of beginners and intermediate learners advancing to the next level. Not having time to attend classes is one of the most common reasons for letting a language journey fall by the way side but despite my schedule I try my best every week to make time for learning, and hope that you do too. It is exciting to see people from all backgrounds now learning Irish and I hope the good work being done on the ground to make this happen continues into the future. In the New Year we can look forward to both the publication of the the Irish Language Strategy and to Seachtain na Gaeilge launching its celebrations for the first time in the north. Seachtain na Gaeilge is the perfect opportunity to see the diversity of Irish speakers as well as the inclusive nature of its community. I look forward to celebrating with you all in March.



Dea-rúin na Bliana Úire!

Tá an Bhliain Úr ina ham maith le tús a chur le do thuras teanga, nó le tosú arís ar thuras a thosaigh tú aon uair amháin. Tá a fhios ag Séamas Mac Giolla Pádraig, Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge i nDún Geanainn agus Deisceart Thír Eoghain, sin go maith agus tá sé ag ullmhú le haghaidh spéis athmhúscailte faoin am a mbeidh mí Eanáir ann. Beidh ranganna úra ag tosú i gceantar Dhún Geanainn agus i gceantar na Coirre Críochaí. Le níos mó eolais a fháil, déan teagmháil le Séamas ar seamas.kilpatrick@cookstown.gov.uk

Cad chuige nach bhfaigheann tú áiseanna foghlama Gaeilge i ndíolacháin na Bliana Úire – foclóir úr, roinnt leabhar nó síntiús le ceann de na hirisleabhair Ghaeilge. Tig leat úsáid a bhaint as ár n-acmhainní ar líne saor in aisce fosta ach teagmháil a dhéanamh linn ag liofa@dcalni.eu

New Year's Resolutions!

The New Year is a great time to start on your language journey, or to pick up again on a journey you once started. Séamas Mac Giolla Pádraig, Irish Language Development Officer for Dungannon and South Tyrone knows this only too well and is preparing for renewed interest come January. There will be new classes beginning in both the Dungannon and Cookstown areas. Contact Séamas for more information on seamas.kilpatrick@cookstown.gov.uk

Why not get some new Irish learning resources in the January sales – a new dictionary, some reading books or a subscription with one of the Irish language journals. You can also avail of our free online resources by getting in touch with us at liofa@dcalni.eu

Acmhainn Foghlama Ar Líne Saor in Aisce do Rannpháirtithe Líofa. Ar iarr tú do cheannsa?

Tá gach duine a bhfuil gealltanas Líofa tugtha acu i dteideal acmhainn foghlama ar líne saor in aisce de chuid Gaelchultúr.

Cosnaíonn an cúrsa sin £120 lena cheannach. Má tá tú cláraithe le Líofa cheana agus más mian leat d'acmhainn a iarraidh déan teagmháil le Líofa, le do thoil;

Ríomhphost: liofa@dcalni.eu

Guthán: 02890515058

Free Online Learning Resource to Líofa Subscribers. Have you claimed yours?

Everyone who has taken the Líofa pledge is entitled to a free online learning resource provided by

Gaelchultúr. This course costs £120 to buy. If you have already signed up to Líofa and wish to claim your resource please contact Líofa;

By email: liofa@dcalni.eu

By phone: 02890515058



“JJ Ó Dochartaigh playing music in Raidió na Gaeltachta’s studio in Gaath Dobhair, Donegal.”

JJ Ó Dochartaigh ag seinm ceoil ag stiúideo Raidió na Gaeltachta i nGaath Dobhair, Tír Chonaill

I gCónagar agus i gCéin

I gCónagar - JJ Ó Dochartaigh, Doire

Is mise J.J. Ó Dochartaigh agus tá mé 27 bliain d’aois. Rugadh ar An Chreagán i nDoire ach tá mé anois i mo chónaí i mBéal Feirste. Tá an Béarla agus an Ghaeilge ó dhúchas agam agus rud beag Fraincise lena dtaobh. Tá mé ag obair mar Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge, Scoil Ghramadaí Naomh Iósaef ar an Domhnach Mhór i dTír Eoghain.

Bhí dúil riamh anall ag mo theaghlach sa Ghaeilge, agus cé nach raibh mórán áiteanna i nDoire a raibh ranganna Gaeilge ar fáil san am sin, d’fhoghlaim mo thuismitheoirí agus baill eile teaghlaigh cúpla focal ag ranganna áitiúla. Nuair a osclaíodh Naíscóil na Rinne mar sin, cuireadh ansin mé agus bhí grá agam don teanga ó shin. Bhí múinteoirí den scoth agam ar an Naíscóil agus ar Bhunscoil Colmcille a spreag go mór mé agus a thug deiseanna dom filíocht a scríobh i nGaeilge agus amhráin Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim.

Is breá liom chomh maith go mbím chomh tógtha sin leis an teanga go dtíg liom dul i bhfeidhm ar fhoghlaim eile mar go bhfeiceann siad an sult a bhíonn agam léi.

Ní dóigh liom gur chaith mé riamh leis an Ghaeilge mar dheacracht ach mar dhúshlán, agus as siocair go raibh mé i gcónaí ag iarraidh í a labhairt mar phríomhtheanga, bhain mé sult as an fhoghlaim. Bhí an ginideach ina phian sa tóin ag an tús, ach chuidigh na múinteoirí in Ollscoil Chúil Raithin go mór liom.

Bhuail mé leis na céadta duine tríd an Ghaeilge, agus an chuid is mó de na cairde is fear liom, tá siad sin agam mar gheall ar an Ghaeilge. Ní raibh mé as obair, a bheag nó a mhór, ó chríochnaigh mé leis an Ollscoil.

Home and Away

Home - JJ Ó Dochartaigh, Derry

I’m J.J. Ó Dochartaigh and I am 27 years old. I was born in Creggan, Derry but I am living in Belfast now. I am a native English and Irish speaker and I also speak a little French. I work as an Irish Language Development Officer in Saint Joseph’s Grammar School in Donaghmore, Tyrone.

My family always had a liking for Irish, and even though there were not many places in Derry offering Irish classes at the time, my parents and members of other families learned a couple of words at local classes. When Naíscóil na Rinne opened I was sent there and I have had a love for the language ever since. I had excellent teachers at the Naíscóil and at Bunscoil Cholmcille that really encouraged me; they gave me opportunities to write poetry and learn songs in Irish.

I also love that I am so taken by the language that I can influence other learners because they can see the enjoyment I have with it.

I don’t think that I ever looked at Irish as a difficulty but as a challenge, and because I was always trying to speak it as my main language I enjoyed learning it. The genitive was a pain in the backside at the beginning, but the teachers at the University of Ulster at Coleraine helped me a lot.

I have met hundreds of people through Irish, and I have made most of my best friends because of Irish. I have hardly ever been out of work since I left university.

“Is breá liom a fhuileata agus atá an Ghaeilge agus go gcuireann na nathanna beaga agus na seanfhocail gliondar ar mo chroí go minic.”

Le ceithre bliana anuas bíom ag labhairt as Gaeilge níos minice ná a mhalairt. Níor labhair mé ach Gaeilge le mo chairde tí. Gach lá ar obair bíom ag caint i nGaeilge le mo chairde agus leis na scoláirí i rith an lae. Nuair a bhím amuigh i nDoire agus i mBéal Feirste fosta bíonn ócáidí Gaeilge ar siúl an t-am ar fad agus tá pobal breá fáirsing Gaelach amuigh ansin.

Chuala mé faoi Lófa don chéad uair nuair a cuireadh fógraí amach chun na scoile agus bhí mé ag impí ar chairde liom páirt a ghlacadh ann, agus ansin iarradh orm amhrán a scríobh don lainseáil oifigiúil an fheachtais.

Tá mé ag teagasc ranganna Gaeilge i mBéal Feirste agus i nDún Geanainn le roinnt blianta anuas agus téim chuig an oiread imeachtaí agus is féidir liom –féilte, ceolchoirmeacha, seolta leabhair, comórtais, cúrsaí samhraidh Ghael-Linn, Cumann Chluain Árd srl.

Is é ‘scragall stáin’ an frása Gaeilge is fearr liom agus tá dúil mhór agam sa líne a scríobh Cathal Buí Mac Giolla Ghunna sa dán ‘An Bonnán Buí’ – A chomharsain chléibh, fliuchaidh bhur mbéal, óir chan fhaigheann sibh braon i ndiaidh bhur mbáis.

“Gan an Ghaeilge ní bheadh mo shaol leath chomh saibhir nó sultmhar agus atá. Mar a dúirt Nelson Mandela, “Má labhraíonn tú le fear i dteanga a thuigeann sé rachaidh sí isteach ina cheann, ach má labhraíonn tú leis ina theanga féin, rachaidh sí isteach ina chroí”, ach níl a fhios agam ar dhúirt sé i nGaeilge é.”

Don mhuintir sin atá ag foghlaim leo anois - leanaigí libh, is de réir a chéile a thógtar caisleáin. Foghlaimígí gach rud atá ar eolas agat i mBéarla – beannachtaí, mallachtaí, mionnaí móra, scéalta grinn, gnáthchomhrá a bhíonn agat le do chairde sa teach tábhairne. Caith seal i gcomhlúadar Gaeilge chomh minic agus is féidir leat.

“I love how poetic Irish is and the little expressions and proverbs often make my heart glow.”

For the last four years I have been speaking Irish more often than not. My housemates and I only spoke Irish in the house. Every day at work I speak Irish with my friends and with the pupils during the day. When I am out in Derry and Belfast there are Irish language events on all the time. There is a widespread Irish language community out there.

I heard about Lófa for the first time when notices were sent out to the school. I was encouraging a friend of mine to take part in it, and then I was asked to write a song for the official launch of the campaign.

I have been teaching Irish classes in Belfast and Dungannon for several years now and I go to as many events as I can – festivals, concerts, book launches, competitions, Gael Linn summer courses, Cumann Chluain Árd etc.

‘Scragall stain’ (tin foil) is my favourite Irish phrase and I really like the line that Cathal Buí Mac Giolla Ghunna wrote in the poem ‘The Yellow Bittern’ – ‘Come, son of my soul, and drain your cup, you’ll get no sup when your life is past’.

“Without Irish my life would neither be half as rich nor half as enjoyable as it is. As Nelson Mandela said, “If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.” I don’t know if he said it in Irish though!”

For the people that are learning away now - keep it up, Rome wasn’t built in a day! Learn everything that you know in English – greetings, curses, swear-words, jokes, ordinary conversation that you have with your friends in the pub. Spend a period of time in Irish language company as often as you can.



Panu Petteri Höglund ag léamh leabhar Gaeilge.

Panu Petteri Höglund reading an Irish book.

I gCéin: Panu Petteri Höglund, An Fhionlainn

Is mise Panu. Tá mé 48 bliain d'aois. Rugadh in Hämeenlinna na Fionlainne mé ach is in Varkaus a chaith mé blianta mo chéad óige. Tá cónaí orm inniu in Turku. An Fhionlainnis an chéad teanga agam, ach chuala mé tréan Sualainnise comh maith, ós í teanga dhúchais m'athar í. Taobh leo siúd tá Béarla, Gearmáinis, Polainnis, Rúisis, Íoslainnis, agus breacaireacht inteacht i gcuid mhór teangacha eile. Tá mé ag iarraidh Nua-Ghréigis, Sámais (canúint Anar), agus Airméinis a fhoghlaim i láthair na huaire, mar shampla.

Chuala mé an chéad iomrá ar an Ghaeilge thiar sna seachtóidí, nuair nach raibh ionam ach buachaill beag bunscoile. Bhí sintiús ag m'athair mór le seachtaineán staire don ghnáthléitheoir, ceann a thug cur síos ar imeachtaí staire na fichiú haoise, agus ar an iris seo tháinig scríbhinní Constantine FitzGibbon fá stair na hÉireann as Fionlainnis an chéad uair riamh. Bhí trácht ansin ar an ról a bhí ag an Ghaeilge sa stair sin. Fuair mise na hailt sin an-spéisiúil, an Ghaeilge ach go háirithe.

Thairis sin, sa bhliain 1981, nuair a bhí mé in mo dhéagóir óg, chonaic mé clár faisnéise ar an teilí a chaith súil ar chruachás na Gaeilge. Bean Fhionlannach agus í pósta ar Éireannach a rinne an clár. Cha dtearn mé dearmad den chlár sin, agus san deireadh thiar thall thoisigh mé a fhoghlaim na teanga.

Bhí an Ghaeilge an-éagsúil leis na teangacha a d'fhoghlaim mé roimpi. Bhí fadhbanna agam leis na gnáthrudáí, is é sin, an difríocht idir 'is' agus 'tá', comh maith leis na caochlaíocha toisigh. Char casadh a leathbhreac sin orm agus na teangthacha eile á bhfoghlaim agam. Thóg sé cuid mhór ama agus oibre orm na gnéithe seo de ghramadach na Gaeilge a thuigbheáil, ach, míle buíochas le Dia, d'éirigh liom an teanga a cheansú sa deireadh.

Away: Panu Petteri Höglund, Finland

I'm Panu. I am 48 years old. I was born in Hämeenlinna, Finland but I spent my early years living in Varkaus. I now live in Turku. Finnish is my first language, but I heard lots of Swedish as well growing up as it is my father's native language. Apart from those Languages, I speak English, German, Polish, Russian, Icelandic and I have a smattering of many other languages. I am currently trying to learn modern Greek, Sami (Anar dialect), and Armenian for example.

I first heard of Irish back in the seventies when I was only a little school boy. My grandfather had a subscription with a history weekly for the average reader, one that described the historical events of the twentieth century. The writings of Constantine FitzGibbon about the history of Ireland first appeared in that magazine in Finnish. The writings mentioned the role the Irish language played in that history. I found those articles very interesting, especially the references to the Irish language.

Moreover, in 1981, when I was a young teenager, I saw a documentary on the telly that looked at the predicament of the Irish language. The programme was made by a Finnish woman who was married to an Irish man. I never forgot that programme and in the end I started learning the language.

Irish was very different to the languages I had learned before it. I had problems with the usual things, i.e. the difference between 'is' and 'tá', as well as the initial mutations. I had never encountered anything similar when I was learning other languages. It took me a lot of time and a lot of work to understand those aspects of Irish grammar but, thanks be to God, I succeeded in mastering the language in the end.

To tell you the truth, there is no way of describing all the ways the language has benefitted me. As I said above, I changed for the better as a person. As well as that, Irish was a great lesson to me as a linguist and as a professional interpreter. That's because when I learned Irish I understood how different languages are, how different languages can be, but you can still learn them.

Le fírinne chan fhuil léamh ná scríobh ná inse béil ar na dóigheanna go léir a ndeachaigh an teanga chun sochair dom. Mar a d'úirt mé thuas tháinig athrú chun leasa orm mar dhuine. Thairis sin ba mhór an ceacht domh í an Ghaeilge mar theangeolaí agus mar theangaire ghairmiúil. Is é sin nuair a d'fhoghlaim mé Gaeilge tuigeadh domh comh héagsúil is a bhíos na teangacha, comh héagsúil is a thig leis na teangacha a bheith, ach gur féidir leat iad a fhoghlaim mar sin féin.

Tá mé ag foghlaim teangacha i gcónaí, agus cha bhíonn an seanfhaitíos orm roimh dheacrachtaí foghlama, ó tá a fhios agam gur éirigh liom greim na Gaeilge féin a shealbhú agus sin go paiteanta.

Chuala mé iomrá ar Líofa ar na gnáthdhóigheanna, is é sin sílim gur luadh Líofa ar fhóram Idirlín inteacht de chuid na nGaeilgeoirí. Is é an tátal a bhain mé as go raibh Líofa ag iarraidh daoine éagsúla a mhealladh i dtreo na Gaeilge, daoine ó chúlraí éagsúla, agus shíl mé go bhféadfainn cuidiú leis an scéim, ós foghlaimeoir cineál neamhghnách mise. Tír Phrotastúnach í an Fhionlainn, mar shampla, agus cé go dteachaigh muid chun saoltachta sa dara leath den fhichiú haois, fanann cuid mhór den traidisiún sin beo i gcónaí. Is de "chlann Liútair" mise mar a déarfadh Micí Mac Gabhann. Thairis sin, cé nár thoisigh mé a fhoghlaim na teanga i gceart sula raibh mé cúig bliana fichead d'aois, shealbhaigh mé go maith í, agus sílim go bhfuil misneach le tabhairt as sin acu siúd atá ag iarraidh líofacht cheart a bhaint amach.

Ar an Idirlíon is mó a bhainim úsáid as mo chuid Gaeilge. Is scríbhneoir Gaeilge mé agus bíonn scéalta agus ailt á gcumadh agam gan stad gan chónaí. Thairis sin, tá mé á foghlaim i gcónaí, agus leabharlann iomlán de leabhair Ghaeilge agam - tá mé á léamh agus iad breac le nótaí. Tá mé ag iarraidh gach focal, gach teilgean cainte a fhoghlaim agus mo chuid féin a dhéanamh díobh. Cha dtig liom bheith páirteach in imeachtaí Gaeilge ach ó am go ham, ach ina dhiaidh sin féin thig liom an-úsáid a bhaint as mo chuid Gaeilge. Le breis is deich mbliana anuas, níor imigh lá gan mise a bheith ag léamh ceann nó dhó de na leabhair Ghaeilge atá agam.

Agus sin é an teachtaireacht a reicfinn leis na foghlaimeoirí eile:

bígí ag staidéar na litríochta agus an bhéaloidis comh maith leis an teanga féin. Léigí na leabhair - na leabhair a tháinig ó pheann scríbhneoirí na Gaeltachta, ach go háirithe - agus bígí ag rá na n-amhrán.

I am still learning languages, and I don't have the old fear of learning difficulties for I know that I succeeded in acquiring a grasp of Irish and did so correctly.

I heard of Líofa in the normal ways, i.e. Líofa was mentioned on a Gaeilgeoir Internet forum. I concluded that Líofa was trying to entice people towards Irish, people from different backgrounds. I thought that I could help with the scheme since I am a kind of an unusual learner. Finland is a Protestant country, for example, and even though we have gone to the profane in the second part of the twentieth century, a lot of that tradition still remains alive. I am from a "Lutheran family" as Micí Mac Gabhann would say. Furthermore, even though I did not start learning the language properly until I was twenty five years old, I acquired it well, and I think those who are trying to achieve proper fluency can draw succour from that.

I mostly use my Irish on the Internet. I write in Irish and I am constantly composing stories and articles. As well as that, I am still learning it, and I have a full library of Irish language books – I read them regularly and they are covered in notes. I am trying to learn every word, every idiom and make my own of them. I can only take part in Irish language events from time to time, but nonetheless I can still make a lot of use of my Irish. For more than ten years, not a day has gone past without me reading one or two of the Irish books that I have.

That is the message that I would give to the other learners:

Study the literature and the folklore as well as the language itself. Read the books – the books that were penned by Gaeltacht writers especially, and sing the songs.

Thíos faoi tá focail an amhráin a luaigh JJ ina alt.
Chum sé iad do lainseáil oifigiúil Líofa i Meán
Fómhair 2011.

Below are the words of the song that JJ mentioned in
his article. He composed them for the official launch
of Líofa in September 2011. Poetry is notoriously
difficult to translate, and it would be an injustice to
JJ's talents for us to try re-writing this in English. So if
you can't understand all of the words at the minute,
hopefully you will soon.

Líofa le Chéile An Pobal Gaelach

by J.J. Ó Dochartaigh

Véarsa 1:

Ó tá Líofa anseo, seas suas agus tóg mo lámh, beidh sé
speisialta

A Ghaela, seasfaidh muid le chéile, mise agus tusa agus
an cine daonna

Ag bualadh le daoine, ar fud na tíre, cairde nua sna
ranganna oíche

Bíonn ár dteanga ar an teilifís, ceol agus damhsa,
achan duine ar bís

Cúrfa:

Ó, Ó, is linne í,

Labhair í agus mairfidh sí,

Goitse anois beidh muid Líofa le chéile

Mise agus tusa agus, an pobal Gaelach (x2)

Véarsa 2:

Nuair a bhí muid óg, dúradh linn gur chóir dúinn bród
a bheith orainn

As ár gcultúr agus as ár dteanga, ag snámh in aghaidh
easa ach beidh muid níos láidre

Líofa le chéile, sin ár mana, agus muid ag foghlaim
beidh muid ceanndána

A Ghaela, seasfaidh muid le chéile, mise agus tusa agus
an cine daonna

Cúrfa:

Ó, Ó, is linne í,

Labhair í agus mairfidh sí,

Goitse anois beidh muid Líofa le chéile

Mise agus tusa agus, an pobal Gaelach (x2)

**From everyone here at Líofa, we
wish you a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.**

**Nollaig Mhaith daoibh uilig agus
Bliain Úr Faoi Mhaise ó fhoireann
Líofa.**